

## BUDGETING FOR OUTCOMES | **SMARTER STUDENTS & STRONGER FAMILIES**

Through the reorganization and transformation of City Hall, Mayor Berke has placed a new emphasis on ensuring Chattanooga's youth have an opportunity to succeed. The City must play a role in supporting students through both strong partnerships with the schools and the provision of direct services. However, investing in our Chattanooga's youth and families is a community priority to be embraced by everyone – government, churches, families, and schools.

### *PARENTS AS FIRST TEACHERS*

Supporting the development of Chattanooga's youth starts long before they walk into a Youth & Family Development Center. Research shows that building a strong foundation through prenatal care and early learning is critical to the later success of children in school. Community efforts should be undertaken to provide pregnant mothers and young fathers with the critical knowledge they need to be successful parents.

### *COMMUNITY SUPPORT*

The success of children in school largely depends on the success of their families and communities. The City must help kids in a sustained way, starting as early in their lives as possible to create a critical mass of supportive adults who understand what it takes to help children succeed. Through community partnerships that leverage our strengths and assets, the City should build a pipeline of social services for kids and families. In addition, the City's Youth and Family Development Centers should further strong connections and proactively disseminate information to neighborhoods.

### *COMMUNITY HEALTH*

To combat growing rates of heart disease, obesity, and diabetes the City and its partners should work to provide tailored programs to Chattanooga's of all ages to promote healthy behaviors.

**Desired Outcomes:**

- More kids graduating high school college and career ready
- More pregnant women accessing prenatal care
- Decrease chronic absenteeism
- Fewer kids dropping out of school
- More parental involvement
- Increase reading proficiency for children and adults
- More kids computer coding
- Increase access to healthy food

**Overall budget proposals are encouraged to include:**

- Clear & measurable goals
- Multi-agency and/or multi-department collaboration
- Mechanisms for citizen involvement & feedback
- Sustainable practices
- Research/Evidence based best practices

**Budget Strategies:**

- Through partnerships with community agencies and other departments, create a pipeline of services available to a geographically targeted group of high risk children and families that provides age specific, high quality interventions including but not limited to financial counseling, mentoring, parenting classes, and tutoring.
- Utilize Youth and Family Development Centers as neighborhood hubs for the proactive dissemination and provision of services
- Engage and organize volunteers to increase capacity in existing programs and foster civic participation
- Provide multi-generational program to encourage a healthy, active lifestyle for families
- Provide access to technology and computer programming classes
- Provide public safety classes including safety planning for families and children